

George Washington Didn't Lie, But He Sure Told 'Cartographic Silences'

EVERY NIGHT OF HIS FAMOUS 1754 survey of the "Ohio region" (roughly modern Pittsburgh), George Washington stayed at an Indian community. But none of these communities appear on the map he drew up of the region. Why?

That was the question Prof. Michael Mullin of Augustana College asked at the first History Associates luncheon of the New Year last month.

The answer, he suggested, can be found by thinking in terms of "cartographic silences," a relatively new approach to the study of map-making that considers what is not on a given map to be as important as what is.

Mullin, who received his PhD from UCSB in 1989, said that comparison of the map with Washington's journal of his trip, in which he records all the settlements at which he stayed, leads him to believe that their omission was a "political silence," reflecting the need of the Ohio Company that commissioned the survey.

In order to open these lands for settlement, Mullin said, the Ohio Company needed to receive the approval of the British Board of Trade, which was unwilling to grant charters to lands occupied by Indians.

But the British were also worried that the French would lay claim to this territory, Mullin said, so they would be willing to grant a charter to land that did not show substantial Indian habitation.

British policy for the next 20 years can be explained on the basis of Washington's map, Mullin said, and aggressive land grabs by the colonists explain why almost all Native Americans took the British side in the Revolution.

A specialist in Native American history, Mullin said he had turned to maps as way to supplement other records.

"Native Americans made maps that were ignored in the past because we didn't know how to read them," he said. For one thing, these maps were oriented Southwest instead of North.

But they show Indians understood

European preoccupation with straight lines by marking all European settlements with squares, instead of the circles they used to mark their own settlements.

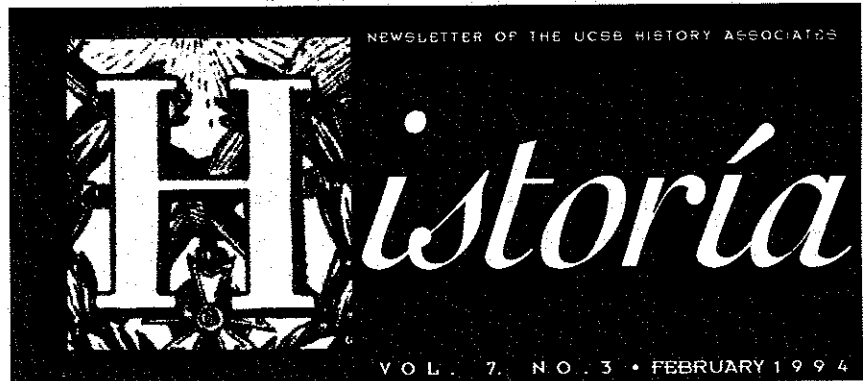
"Maps at the beginning of the Colonial period didn't express what we expect to find," he said. Instead of geographical information, their aim was to show "who owned what land."

This made surveying an attractive occupation, and also "a good way of getting rich quick," he said. Surveyors usually got a portion of the land they charted.

Mullin did all of his degrees at UCSB and was the first recipient of the Wilbur Jacobs Award in 1989.



Prof. Michael Mullin



Department Makes Plans For Era of 'Downsizing'

THE FIRST STAGE OF AN extensive planning process for History's role in the "downsized" University of California has been completed, but the results will not be known for many more months.

The Department submitted a three-year plan on February 1 in response to a request from Executive Vice Chancellor Donald Crawford for strategies to cope with a potential flood of early retirements resulting from the VERIP III retirement incentive program.

His request asked departments what it would take to return to the size they were in 1990-91.

"There are too many variables," according to Curriculum Committee Chair Carl Harris, who has spearheaded the effort. "We have no firm idea of how many faculty actually will retire, how many positions we will be able to keep, or when we will be allowed to fill them."

All parties agree that the only certainty at this point is uncertainty.

"We could lose as much as a fourth of our Department to this current round of early retirements," Chair Sears McGee explained. "These would include some of our most senior and most distinguished

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UCSB Historians Take Princeton By Storm

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT may have to open a Princeton branch next year.

Both Anne Moyer (Renaissance History) and Lisa Kallet-Marx (Ancient Greece) have been offered fellowships to the Institute for Advanced Study there to pursue new research projects.

Moyer's project, for which she was offered a rare two-year fellowship, is a study of cultural identity in the later Renaissance. Kallet-Marx will work on political and social expressions of democracy in 5th century B. C. Athens.

Their offers, moreover, come just as another UCSB historian, Ken Mouré returns from a two-year appointment, during which time he worked on European efforts at monetary reform during the period between the World Wars (see related story, p. 3).

"These grants from one of the most prestigious research institutions in the world are another indication of the success our Department has had with appointing junior scholars in recent years," History Chair Sears McGee said.

"They help confirm our belief that we have been fol-

lowing the right strategy in our plan to gain access to the top of the national rankings of History departments." (see related story, p. 1.)

Mouré was appointed to teach modern European economic history in 1989. Kallet-Marx was hired in 1991 after teaching at Smith and Swarthmore, and Moyer came in 1992-93 after holding positions at Oregon and the University of Chicago.

Moyer's first book, *Musica Scientia: Musical Scholarship in the Italian Renaissance*, won the coveted Marraro Prize of the Society for Italian Historical Studies for 1993.

Her new study, which focuses on Florence and Tuscany under the Medici Grand Dukes, also won a Richardson and Goldsmith Fellowship at the Whitney Humanities Center of Yale University, which she had to decline in order to accept the Institute award.

Kallet-Marx's new study, which follows publication of her book on *Money, Expense and Naval Power in Thucydides's History*, will look at the connection between public finance and contemporary attitudes toward expenditure and exchange in private life as a way of getting at the larger question of individual attitudes toward public life.

She, too, has been offered more than one fellowship to pursue this study, having been chosen for one of the three Mellon Fellowships in the Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania for 1993-94.

From the Chair

The American Historical Association annual meeting, attended by thousands of historians from all over the country and around the world, was held in San Francisco early last month. I was there to participate in our annual process of interviewing candidates for positions at UCSB; this year we are hiring in American Colonial History and in the history of U.S. Sectionalism and the Civil War, searches chaired by Pat Cohen and Carl Harris respectively.

As I write we are in the midst of on-campus visits by the trio of candidates in each search that we selected from larger groups in San Francisco. It is, as usual, an exciting, exhilarating and exhausting time for all of us, and I look forward to reporting the results soon.

In San Francisco, by sheer good luck, I had a delightful confirmation of the success of our undergraduate teaching program.

Quite by chance, as I roamed about the book exhibits and passed through lobbies and hallways on my errands, I saw three women who were history majors here at UCSB in the '80s and took courses from me. They are now in or will soon be in the academic job market themselves.

First I ran into Lynne Hawley, who is now finishing her dissertation under the direction of my friend Michael MacDonald at the University of Michigan. She expects to be looking for a job in early modern British history next year. I have invited her to give a paper in my seminar next quarter.

Next I almost literally stumbled across Patricia Turner as she sat reviewing her notes before an interview for a position in modern European history. Her specialty is modern French history, which she has studied under the tutelage of Raymond Grew, also at the University of Michigan.

And then in the lobby as I was talking to someone else, up came Sholeh Quinn to say hello. She finished her dissertation in Persian history last year at the University of Chicago and is currently teaching at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

Last April, on the day Sholeh successfully defended her dissertation, she wrote to Hal Drake to thank him and to pass along her thanks to me, Nancy Gallagher and Warren Hollister.

She said that her dissertation was the "culmination of all my years of study, and those undergraduate years at UCSB were just as important as my years here at the University of Chicago have been — perhaps they are even more important, for they gave me the foundation on which I added the specializations."

Lynne, Patricia and Sholeh doubtless would have done splendidly as undergraduates anywhere, but we're glad they came to UCSB and in this department they obtained good foundations for their graduate careers.

We wish them well and take pride in their achievements.

Sears McGee
Chair

Historia

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Hal Drake

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The 'Old Lady' and The Alchemist

How Eric Dutt Tried to Blackmail the Bank Of England During the Interwar Period With a Threat to Ruin the Gold Standard

BY KEN MOURÉ

[Ed. Note: Conducting research is a tedious process, as any research scholar will confirm. But it has its lighter moments, as Ken Mouré, who returned this year from a two-year fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, discovered when going through records of the Bank of England for a book on the gold standard.]

ALCHEMY DID NOT figure prominently on my list of concerns for research into the instability of the interwar gold standard. No serious economic historian of the period from William Adams Brown to Barry Eichengreen has paid the least bit of attention to the threat alchemy posed to the gold standard.

But for several months in 1935 the Bank of England, which prided itself on its mastery of the art of central banking in contrast to Continental rivals, was troubled by the prospect that one Eric Dutt, inventor, might have found a way to produce gold from an electro-chemical combination of tungsten and boron.

Dutt had first approached the Bank of France with news of his discovery, and been turned out unceremoniously, Governor Moret perhaps having learned from the prefecture of police that Dutt had been arrested shortly after his arrival in Paris for passing bad cheques. (The Bank of France seems to have

kept no record of Dutt's encounter with Moret, not even in its file of "Nut Cases".)

Dutt arrived at the Bank of England with a letter of recommendation from a leading City law firm, and told Governor Norman that he was going to demand a ransom of 1 billion francs from the Bank of France, and that if it wasn't paid, he would destroy the gold standard with gold of his own manufacture.

Sir Frank Smith, head of the government Department of Scientific Research, was contacted to assess Dutt's claims. He dismissed them as utterly ridiculous, but agreed to meet with Dutt,

and after talking with him, revised his view.

Dutt told Smith that by his current process he could produce 1/2800 of an ounce of gold in one experiment, a rate that would require more than a year to produce an ounce of gold. In view of the modesty of Dutt's claims, Smith estimated the chances that Dutt could produce gold were "only" one million to one against; he recommended that Dutt be ignored and left to go his own way.

But Governor Norman, despite the fact that England was no longer on the gold standard, was unwilling to dismiss Dutt's threat. When Dutt inflated his results and



Prof. Kenneth Mouré

announced he could produce one kilo of gold a day, Norman's curiosity could no longer be restrained, and the Bank enlisted the expertise of two University of London chemists to investigate Dutt's alchemical achievements.

They traveled to Switzerland to observe Dutt's "factory" in operation. Their report back to Norman was an account of a third-rate attempt at melodrama. Dutt had met them at the train bearing a revolver, which he brandished to ward off conspirators out to ambush him.

His laboratory proved deficient in the necessary chemicals, which had to be purchased by the visitors, who were sworn to secrecy and warned that their lives might be in danger in their hotel. Dutt's laboratory was a shambles, his experiments produced no gold, and Dutt himself betrayed "gross ignorance of scientific matters." Dutt was "an unscrupulous swindler" using central bank interest in his claims to prise further research funds from a wealthy financial backer. Professor Andrade reported that Dutt had never conducted the experiments he claimed, had obstructed their investigation, and had produced no



A Low cartoon published October 24, 1932 titled "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" mocks a speech by Governor Norman of the Bank of England, who would soon fund a study of Eric Dutt's claim that he could turn base metal into gold.

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Life Beyond Graduate School

A Lesson in Real World Lifestyles

BY BOB MUELLER

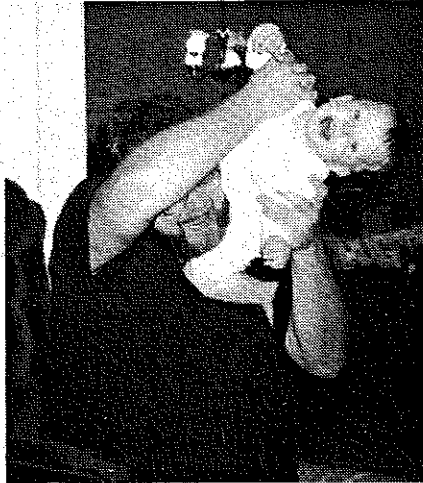
[Ed. Note: When last we heard from our roving correspondent (*Historia*, October 1992), he was searching for the perfect cup of coffee among UCSB's expatriate community in London. Last Fall found him temporarily posted to Hastings College, Nebraska, with Rob Babcock (PhD Medieval, 1992) and his family. We join him as he learns the true source of that commodity with which University faculty are most frequently associated. (What follows has been edited for a family newsletter.)

HOWDY FOLKS,

It's been a red letter day today. We got our first big snow. It has sprinkled a few flakes off and on during the last few weeks, but today left snow on the ground, buried my car and let me make a snowman. It was great, another excuse to put off writing a lecture on the Renaissance. Wow, this weather thing is so cool (no pun intended).

'It wasn't a pretty sight, but at least I'm morally pure now.'

In Tam Babcock's eyes it was a red letter day in another way. With Rob gone to Haskins and Tam out shopping for the week's groceries, I had to change a dirty diaper. Two nights ago Tam had taken me on a dry run, when I diapered Sara just after she came from a bath. That was a totally sterile situation. Today's change was a heavy dose of reality that no bachelor should ever go through. Parents do this kind of thing because it is genetically encoded into them. Not so for adoptive uncles. We



Bob Mueller and Baby Sara

look at all that and are positively revolted.

The first thing you have to realize is that a dirty diaper is like a road accident. You want desperately for it to go away so you don't have to deal with it, but unfortunately someone has to clean up the mess. Secondly, put up with the fact that some of that stuff is going to get on your hands. Robin Williams once said that it is a cross between toxic waste and velcro. How true.

My job was made much worse by the fact that Sara and I had been watching a show on dogs previous to the dirty diaper, so she was not happy being taken away from the TV. She kept squirming and turning herself over so she could see the television and her "gogs!"

I deftly removed the filthy diaper and folded it while suspending both of Sara's ankles in the air with one hand. As I placed it in the diaper bin the little hellspawn grabbed the diaper wrap, which was tinged with baby feces on the edges, and began to wave it around like a Dodgers pennant.

Of course the one edge I could grab was gooey with a foul odiferous sub-

stance that I'd rather not talk about. I had to use three baby-wipes to clean her, while all the time she's flip-flopping around on the changing table yelling "Gogs, gogs, GOGS!!!"

I finished the process, folding a new diaper in the wrap and affixing it to the baby. It was a lumpy, asymmetric diaper, but it covered her ass.

If the Babcocks want to complain let them hire a nanny. After setting Sara loose I spent a good ten minutes washing my hands and sniffing my arms in many places to make sure she didn't get me in her flailing.

It wasn't a pretty sight, but at least I'm morally pure now. I figure the Catholic heaven has to give you big-time indulgence points for diaper changes of children who don't belong to you.

When Tam got home I gave her the news and headed for the door. I'm at school now and will only return when the horrible mental odor has been erased from my mind. I'll never look at Sara the same again.

Rest easy.
Bob

**LET US
HEAR FROM
YOU**

If you are a grad trying to get in touch with an old classmate, or a community member or alum with an article or story, why not drop us a line?

Send your letters to:
Editor, *Historia*
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University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

Hole in the Middle



Public History Secretary Dana Spoonerow (center) left last month to become administrative assistant in the Department of Linguistics. After almost five years, Dana had become a favorite with faculty and grad students as well as staff. No matter how hectic things got, Dana always had a smile and a cheerful word. Pictured with Dana at a farewell party are (l. to r.) Scheduling Secretary Amy Stever, Attack Secretary Carol Pfeil, Graduate Secretary Darcy Ritza, and Lindsey Reed, managing editor of *The Public Historian*.

Public History Class Analyzes Results Of Santa Barbara's 'Painted Cave Fire'

TOO MUCH RESPONSE to wild-fires in areas where residential housing is mixed with wildlands can be just as damaging as too little.

That's one conclusion that may be drawn from a study of Santa Barbara's 1990 Painted Cave fire conducted by the Department's Public History Program.

Summarizing that report in the current issue of *Friendly Exchange*, published by the Farmers Insurance Group, PHS Director Otis Graham Jr. said that a federal fire policy that "sought to extinguish all fires as soon as possible," allowed underbrush to grow in the County's "intermix" area, contributing to a cycle of costly fires between 1955 and 1977.

The report, *Sifting Through the Ashes*, includes a list of reforms to forestall fires in this type of countryside,

where approximately 7 million Californians now live.

"While some of the suggestions have been implemented, others, such as expanded fire breaks and widened roads, have only been talked about," Graham reported.

He attributed some of the delay to "citizen apathy and budgetary difficulties," but also to the lack of a regional planning process for fire policy.

Calling the Painted Cave fire "a wake-up call," Graham said, "We must learn from this problem. It is one of the prices we pay for living in the land where fire also lives.

Lessons listed by Graham include:

- Citizens should prepare for fire emergencies by making lists of portable valuables, planning escape routes, mak-

ing arrangements for pets and compiling emergency survival kits."

- "Residents should be held more accountable for bringing their properties into conformance with fire safety codes such as brush clearance ordinances and building fittings."

- "Infrastructure designers should pay special attention to road and cul-de-sac widths, as well as standardizing water lines and hydrant fittings."

- Stricter roofing and building codes should be enacted for high fire-hazard zones."

Copies of the report, priced at \$6.95, may be purchased by writing to the Public History Program, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

Achievement

Keith Zahniser has been awarded one of eight dissertation fellowships granted by Yale University's Pew Program in Religion and American History for 1994-95. Competition for the \$12,000 fellowship was fierce, with more than 90 applicants from throughout the country. Keith's dissertation topic of "Popular Religion and Reform in Progressive Era Pittsburgh" was one of two at UCSB to receive funding. The other went to a PhD candidate in the Department of Religious Studies on "Franciscans, Puritans and Sacred Space in the Americas," for which History's Sarah Cline is the extra-departmental adviser.

The only other university to win more than one Pew fellowship was Princeton.

Randy Carson (BA, 1986) was chosen from a field of more than 130 nominees to receive the "Spotlight on a Teacher" award of the Imperial Valley Press last month.

Although he was a History major at UCSB, Carson received the award for his performance as a science teacher. He was nominated by three students from Holtville Middle School and two students who took English classes from him at Imperial Valley College. A sixth nomination came from a former student at Lincoln Elementary School.

In a story accompanying announcement of the award in the Press on Jan. 14, Carson said he has earned a reputation as a "mean, strict, angry teacher" because he accepts no less than a student's best.

Time to Renew!

TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP in the UCSB History Associates, or to join for the first time, please fill out the form below and mail it with your check or money order (payable to UCSB History Associates) to: UCSB History Associates, Office of Community Relations, University of California, Santa Barbara, CA 93106.

Enclosed are my annual dues of \$ _____

- Regular Member (\$15)**
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- Chancellor's Council membership which includes invitations to the Mini-symposium series, the Chancellor's Holiday Reception, and the Chancellor's Council Annual Dinner.
- In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is \$25 to obtain a UCSB Library card.
- In addition to my membership dues, enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ to the UCSB History Associates Scholarship Fund.
- All funds contributed above the "Active" membership will be used to support UCSB History Associates Scholarships.

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Planning for Changes

CONTINUED FROM P. 1

faculty.

"On the other hand, if all of these faculty turn down the offer, we will not change much at all."

The planning process has had to deal with both possibilities.

"For this planning document we must assume that all ten eligible faculty will take VERIP III," Harris said. "Moreover, the Department has three vacancies from resignations and from last year's VERIP II."

Harris said the Department is relying on a "strategy of clustering faculty in carefully selected areas of excellence" to retain any losses it may suffer and at the same time improve its standing in national ratings of History departments.

"The 1982 Report of the Associated Research Councils ranked the Department 26th among 102 departments nationally," he said. "Now we certainly rank in the top 20, probably in the top 15, and we can hope to move into the top 10."

The report to Vice Chancellor Crawford identified four "geographical" clusters and three "methodological/comparative" clusters that are helping the Department grow in size and quality.

These are Medieval/Pre-Modern

Europe, U. S. Public Policy (20th century emphasis), Latin America and East Asia in the former, and Religious History, Women's History and Gender Studies and Comparative Economic History in the latter.

In addition, Harris said, "we are beginning to see emerging excellence in the geographical areas of early American history (pre-Civil War), modern Europe (with an emphasis on 20th century), and Middle East/North African history."

DUTT'S GOLD

CONTINUED FROM P. 3

gold whatsoever.

When they returned to London with the residue of the experiments for final testing, Dutt threatened to sue the Bank of England. After a minor dispute over whether rail tickets were to be reimbursed as expenses or to be paid from the fee agreed by the professors, the Bank paid out some £500 for the investigation. Governor Norman thanked them for their report, stating "I fear that you may think we have wasted your time, but from our point of view, the investigation has amply justified itself."

Thus was the gold standard saved, to collapse of its own accord one year later, without the assistance of Eric Dutt.



Historia

NEWSLETTER OF THE UCSB HISTORY ASSOCIATES
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